

**U.S. District Court
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-02071-CKK**

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN
WASHINGTON v. GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION

Assigned to: Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Plaintiff

**CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY
AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON**

Date Filed: 09/04/2018

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

represented by **Nikhel Sus**
CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON
1101 K Street, NW
Suite 201
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 408-5565
Fax: (202) 897-1996
Email: nsus@citizensforethics.org
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Anne L. Weismann
CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON
1101 K Street, NW
Suite 201
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 408-5565
Fax: (202) 588-5020
Email: aweismann@citizensforethics.org
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

**GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION**

represented by **William Mark Nebeker**
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
555 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 252-2536
Fax: (202) 252-2599
Email: mark.nebeker@usdoj.gov
LEAD ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
09/04/2018	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5670096) filed by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons GSA, # <u>3</u> Summons Attorney General, # <u>4</u> Summons U.S. Attorney)(Weismann, Anne) (Entered: 09/04/2018)
09/04/2018	<u>2</u>	LCvR 7.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON (Weismann, Anne) (Entered: 09/04/2018)

09/04/2018		Case Assigned to Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. (zsth) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/05/2018	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zsth) (Entered: 09/05/2018)
09/07/2018	<u>4</u>	ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE COLLEEN KOLLAR-KOTELLY. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 09/07/18. (DM) (Entered: 09/07/2018)
09/17/2018	<u>5</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Nikhel Sus on behalf of CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON (Sus, Nikhel) (Main Document 5 replaced on 9/20/2018) (ztd). (Entered: 09/17/2018)
09/18/2018	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 9/14/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 10/14/2018. (Weismann, Anne) (Entered: 09/18/2018)
09/18/2018	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION served on 9/13/2018 (Weismann, Anne) (Entered: 09/18/2018)
09/18/2018	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 9/14/18. (Weismann, Anne) (Entered: 09/18/2018)
10/10/2018	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by William Mark Nebeker on behalf of GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 10/10/2018)
10/16/2018		MINUTE ORDER: Plaintiff perfected service on Defendant on September 14, 2018. A government agency has thirty days from the date of service to answer a FOIA Complaint. 5 U.S.C.A. § 522(a)(4)(C). Defendant's Answer was due October 14, 2018. As of this date, the Court has not received Defendant's Answer. The Court ORDERS Defendant to file an Answer by OCTOBER 19, 2018. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 10-16-2018. (lcckk3) (Entered: 10/16/2018)
10/17/2018	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 10/17/2018)
10/18/2018	<u>11</u>	ORDER. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 10/18/2018. (lcckk3) (Entered: 10/18/2018)
10/18/2018	<u>12</u>	NOTICE <i>Regarding Service</i> by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 10/18/2018)
10/18/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/8/2018. (dot) (Entered: 10/22/2018)
11/08/2018	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 11/08/2018)
11/08/2018		MINUTE ORDER: The Court is in receipt of the parties' <u>13</u> Joint Status Report. The parties report that Defendant is presently reviewing the resulting records found during the search conducted pursuant to Plaintiff's FOIA request. Defendant's search recovered over 4,000 potentially responsive pages. Defendant anticipates producing responsive, non-exempt records by November 30, 2018. After releasing the records, Plaintiff will need time to review the records and to engage in discussions with Defendant, should any issues be unresolved. Accordingly, the court ORDERS the parties to file a Joint Status Report by DECEMBER 14, 2018, advising the Court whether further proceedings, including briefing, are warranted. If briefing is required, the parties are ordered to propose a briefing schedule in their Joint Status Report. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 11/8/2018. (lcckk3) (Entered: 11/08/2018)
11/08/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/14/2018, advising the Court whether further proceedings, including briefing, are warranted. (dot) (Entered: 11/13/2018)

11/13/2018	<u>14</u>	NOTICE of Change of Address by Nikhel Sus (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 11/13/2018)
12/14/2018	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. (Nebeker, William) (Entered: 12/14/2018)
12/17/2018		MINUTE ORDER: The Court is in receipt of the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report. The parties report that Defendant has reviewed the records relating to Plaintiff's FOIA request but has withheld the responsive records in full pursuant to multiple FOIA exemptions. The parties are continuing to discuss ways to narrow the issues to be litigated or to eliminate the need for briefing altogether. Accordingly, the Court sets the following schedule. The parties are ORDERED to file another Joint Status Report on JANUARY 25, 2019, informing the Court of the parties' status on narrowing the issues for litigation. If required, the Court further ORDERS Defendant to file its motion for summary judgment by FEBRUARY 11, 2019 and Plaintiff to file its opposition to Defendant's motion and cross-motion for summary judgment by MARCH 4, 2019. The Court further ORDERS that Defendant file its combined reply and opposition by MARCH 25, 2019, and that Plaintiff file its reply by APRIL 8, 2019. Should the parties succeed in resolving this matter prior to the above-proposed deadlines, they are ORDERED to promptly advise the Court. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 12/17/2018. (lcckk3) (Entered: 12/17/2018)
12/17/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Plaintiff's Cross Motion due by 3/4/2019. Response to Cross Motion due by 3/25/2019. Reply to Cross Motion due by 4/8/2019. Defendant's Summary Judgment Motion due by 2/11/2019. Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 3/4/2019. Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 3/25/2019. (dot) (Entered: 12/18/2018)
01/25/2019	<u>16</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Stay (<i>Defendant's Motion to Stay Proceedings in Light of Lapse in Appropriations</i>) by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 01/25/2019)
01/28/2019		MINUTE ORDER: The court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>16</u> Unopposed Motion to Stay Proceedings in Light of Lapse in Appropriations. Defendant requests a Stay based on the lapse of appropriations to the Department of Justice. But, as appropriations to the Department have now been restored for at least three weeks, Defendant's motion to Stay is DENIED. Defendant also requests an extension on its deadline for filing its Joint Status Report, which was due on January 25, 2019. Defendant's motion for an extension is GRANTED. The parties are ORDERED to file a Joint Status Report by FEBRUARY 8, 2019, indicating how the parties intend to proceed and proposing a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 1/28/2019. (lcckk3) (Entered: 01/28/2019)
01/28/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/8/2019, indicating how the parties intend to proceed and proposing a briefing schedule if necessary. (dot) (Entered: 01/29/2019)
02/08/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/08/2019		MINUTE ORDER: The court is in receipt of the parties' <u>17</u> Joint Status Report. The parties have conferred and propose a briefing schedule to resolve Defendant's determination that any material responsive to Plaintiff's request is exempt from FOIA. The Court ORDERS Defendant to file its Motion for Summary Judgment by MARCH 28, 2019, Plaintiff to file its Opposition and any Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment by APRIL 29, 2019, Defendant to file its Reply and Response to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion by MAY 23, 2019, and Plaintiff to file any Reply by JUNE 17, 2019. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 2/8/2019. (lcckk3) (Entered: 02/08/2019)
02/08/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's Summary Judgment Motion due by 3/28/2019. Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 4/29/2019. Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 5/23/2019. Plaintiff's Cross Motion for Summary Judgment due by 4/29/2019. Response to Cross Motion for Summary Judgment due by 5/23/2019. Reply to Cross Motion for Summary Judgment due by 6/17/2019. (dot) (Entered: 02/11/2019)
03/28/2019	<u>18</u>	MOTION for Judgment on the Pleadings , MOTION to Dismiss , MOTION for Summary Judgment by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Declaration Lewis, # <u>4</u> Exhibit Vaughn Index, # <u>5</u> Text

		of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 03/28/2019)
04/29/2019	<u>19</u>	Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>4</u> Exhibit 3, # <u>5</u> Exhibit 4, # <u>6</u> Exhibit 5, # <u>7</u> Exhibit 6, # <u>8</u> Exhibit 7, # <u>9</u> Statement of Facts, # <u>10</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 04/29/2019)
04/29/2019	<u>20</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>18</u> MOTION for Judgment on the Pleadings MOTION to Dismiss MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 3, # <u>4</u> Exhibit 4, # <u>5</u> Exhibit 5, # <u>6</u> Exhibit 6, # <u>7</u> Exhibit 7, # <u>8</u> Statement of Facts)(Sus, Nikhel) (Entered: 04/29/2019)
05/17/2019	<u>21</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply as to <u>18</u> MOTION for Judgment on the Pleadings MOTION to Dismiss MOTION for Summary Judgment , <u>19</u> Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 05/17/2019)
05/20/2019		MINUTE ORDER: The court is in receipt of Defendant's <u>21</u> Unopposed Motion for an Enlargement of Time, and Memorandum in Support Thereof. This is Defendant's first Motion for an extension of time. Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion is currently due May 23, 2019. Defendant requests an extension of time due to the responsibilities in several other litigation matters. Defendant's Motion is GRANTED. Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion is due JUNE 12, 2019. The Court further ORDERS that Plaintiff's Reply is now due JULY 8, 2019. The Court expects no further requests for extensions due to other litigation commitments. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 5/20/2019. (lcckk3) (Entered: 05/20/2019)
05/20/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment and Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion is due 6/12/2019. Plaintiff's Reply due 7/8/2019. (dot) (Entered: 05/21/2019)
06/12/2019	<u>22</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>19</u> Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 06/12/2019)
06/12/2019	<u>23</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>18</u> MOTION for Judgment on the Pleadings MOTION to Dismiss MOTION for Summary Judgment (<i>same as ECF N0. 22</i>) filed by GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Nebeker, William) (Entered: 06/12/2019)